

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Education expenses

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 98

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 July 2013

Number of pages: 2

Question:

What is the department/agency's guidelines on study?

For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the department/agency.

Answer:

Under the Enterprise Agreement and SES employment arrangements, study assistance is available to eligible employees undertaking tertiary, professional or technical study relevant to the work of the Department. Across all classification levels, employees who are approved to access study assistance are entitled to a maximum of six hours of study leave per week. Indigenous employees are entitled to an additional six hours per week. On average, each participant takes between two to six hours per week study leave.

Study assistance is beneficial to the Department as it encourages employees to continue their professional development and enhances their capability.

During the period 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013, \$180,889 was reimbursed to employees under the study assistance scheme.

The Department has spent a total of \$821,595 from 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013 on centrally coordinated training through the Capability Development Fund (CDF). The courses included core, mandatory, professional (technical) and leadership components which were delivered both externally and in-house.

The Department does not record capability development data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to the remainder of this question. To attempt to

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provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.